(d) No, Sir.

Fire in shed of New Delhi Railway goods yard

1410. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that goods worth several lakhs of rupees were destroyed in a fire which broke out in a shed of the New Delhi Railway goods yard in Ajmeri Gate on 25th May, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details of the goods damaged and the cause of the fire;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was delay in the arrival of the fire fighting personnel to extinguish the fire, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that fire have occurred earlier also at this place which is a congested locality; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to prevent occurrence of fires at this place and measures for controlling them quickly?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four wagons containing papers, black gram and oil cakes and shed No. 3 of the goods shed were partially damaged in this fire. Enquiry conducted into the incident has revealed that the fire was caused due to inadvertant throwing of live match stick/burning bidi/cigarette butt by some passer-by.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Railway staff working in this area have been instructed to be more alert and vigilant and strictly follow all preventive measures to prevent recurrence of such fires in future. Following measures have been specifically ordered:

(i) Proper stacking and covering of goods in the shed is being ensured.

(ii) Steam locomotives are being replaced by Diesel Engines for shunting purposes.

(iii) To refresh the knowledge of the employees in first-aid fire fighting techniques, intensive training is proposed to be imparted.

(iv) Emphasis is also being laid on good house keeping and maintenance of cleanliness in Goods shed.

(v) More 'No Smoking' sign boards are being displayed in this area.

Excavation work in Assam

1411. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has taken up any excavation work in Assam;

(b) whether the Archaeological Survey of India deputed some experts to visit the ancient monuments of Assam;

(c) whether it is a fact that officials of the Archaeological Survey of India could not visit the Ambari Site of excavation till this date;

(d) whether it is the practice with the ASI to send experts to examine the monuments in Assam at regular intervals;

(e) if so, what is the frequency of such visits; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to preserve the Hajjarvarman's rock-inscription of the 9th Century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has participated in excavation work at Ambari during 1970-71 along with the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University, State Department of Archaeology, Assam and the Deccan College, Pune.